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BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION APPEALS BOARD UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY M 9:42 WASHINGTON, D.C.

ENVIR. APPEALS BOARD

In re:

OC INDUCABLES OUTO INC

PPG INDUSTRIES OHIO, INC., : RCRA Appeal No. 07-01

PPG INDUSTRIES, INC.,

Permit No. RCRA-004-304-689 :

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The above-entitled matter came on for TELECONFERENCE at approximately 11:00 a.m. at 1341 G Street, NW., Washington, D.C.

BEFORE:

CHARLES SHEEHAN Presiding Judge

NIVEA BERRIOS Senior Counsel to the Board

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- MS. DURR: Okay, we're getting ready
- 3 to start. The Environmental Appeals Board of
- 4 the United States Environment Protection Agency
- 5 is now in session for teleconference. in re: PPG
- 6 Industries Ohio, Inc., PPG Industries, Inc.;
- 7 Permit No. RCRA-OHD-004-304-689, RCRA Appeal No.
- 8 07-01. The Honorable Judge Charles Sheehan
- 9 presiding.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: Good morning,
- 11 Mr. Krueger, Mr. Schmidt.
- MR. SCHMIDT: Good morning, Judge.
- MR. KRUEGER: Good morning, Your
- 14 Honor.
- 15 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Yes, Judge Sheehan
- 16 here, and with me is our senior counsel, Nivea
- 17 Berrios, who will, if she has any questions in
- 18 addition to mine, be free to ask them.
- 19 Given the fact that we are on by
- 20 call, I think it's best that we proceed by
- 21 introducing ourselves before each of us
- 22 speaks, just to be clear who it is speaking.

This conversation of course is 1 2 being transcribed, so it aids in 3 transcription as well. 4 Is that okay? 5 MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, Your Honor. This is Rob Schmidt. 6 7 Yes, Your Honor. MR. KRUEGER: 8 Tom Krueger. 9 JUDGE SHEEHAN: This is an old case. 10 It's about 15 months old at this point, filed in May of '07. And we now have before us a seventh 11 motion for extension of time. We're concerned 12 13 about the extremely high number of extensions 14 granted at this point, and thought the case 15 would have been concluded by now, given some of 16 the representations lately. 17 In June, it was represented that 18 you thought that you'd have complete and 19 final resolution by July, but that didn't 20 happen; is that right? 21 Mr. Krueger, you want to go first 22

about why that representation was

- 1 unfulfilled? Was it the MACT issue only or
- 2 other issues?
- MR. KRUEGER: The MACT issue certainly
- 4 did slow matters down. As we indicated in the
- 5 last request for extension, a recent stack test
- 6 required some further evaluation by both
- 7 parties, but ultimately helped us to come to a
- 8 resolution.
- 9 At this point, I do believe that we
- 10 have resolved the matter. That is, at this
- 11 point, we have agreed to six modifications to
- 12 the issued permit that resolve the matters
- 13 raised in PPG's petition for review.
- And at this point, all that remains
- 15 to be done is to simply move forward and
- 16 implement those modifications. And at this
- 17 point what -- at least I would represent,
- 18 subject to Mr. Schmidt's confirmation, all
- 19 that remains to be done is to have the
- 20 parties agree on the appropriate regulatory
- 21 mechanism for moving forward with those
- 22 modifications, proposing the modifications,

- 1 going through the appropriate public
- 2 participation measures, and assuming that
- 3 public participation doesn't require any
- 4 changes, then moving forward to modify the
- 5 permit as the parties have agreed.
- 6 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Why couldn't the
- 7 permit be withdrawn and then when the new permit
- 8 is issued -- the old permit be withdrawn? So
- 9 that the petition could be withdrawn, and the
- 10 issue would be moot before us.
- 11 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, this is Rob
- 12 Schmidt speaking. I think from PPG's
- 13 perspective, the problem becomes one -- we need
- 14 to have a permit in place. So we can't -- and
- 15 we can't dismiss -- we can't withdraw the
- 16 current permit without having another one in
- 17 place effectively.
- 18 The modification procedures that
- 19 we're talking about do have a public
- 20 participation element to it, which requires
- 21 the region to take some steps, or potentially
- 22 PPG, depending on what mechanism that we

- 1 undertake to modify this permit.
- 2 And during the pendency of that
- 3 period of time when we're modifying the
- 4 permit, if U.S. EPA is required due to public
- 5 comments to make some changes to the
- 6 agreed-to language that we've -- for the six
- 7 modifications that we're going to make to the
- 8 existing permit -- if U.S. EPA can't go
- 9 forward with a change, or has to make a
- 10 change that's different from the one that
- 11 we've agreed to, unless this appeal is still
- 12 pending at that point, we won't be able to
- 13 challenge it.
- I guess an example would be, in
- order here to explain the problem is as we
- 16 see it -- the current permit as it exists has
- 17 six effectively stayed provisions that were
- 18 appealed. One of them relates to operational
- 19 parameters for a thermal oxidation unit. The
- 20 parties, meaning U.S. EPA and PPG, have
- 21 agreed to modify the language to remove
- 22 certain operational parameters from the

- 1 thermal oxidation unit and replace it with
- 2 some other language related to the operation.
- 4 process, the modification to the permit to
- 5 implement these changes, U.S. EPA is forced
- 6 to, because of public comment or considers
- 7 it -- considered the public comment worthy of
- 8 making this change, to go back to the
- 9 original permit language -- there wouldn't
- 10 need to be a modification of the underlying
- 11 permit in that case, and there wouldn't be an
- 12 opportunity for PPG to challenge that
- 13 decision.
- 14 JUDGE SHEEHAN: You see our concern
- is, we have had representations at least since
- 16 mid-June that this would be done by July, and
- 17 July, you come back and give us three new
- 18 issues, essentially, in addition to the MACT
- 19 issue you mentioned in June.
- The final approval, whatever that
- 21 means, the appropriate vehicle on the
- 22 implementation of mods, and then you'd like

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- 1 until September to get back to us to tell us
- 2 whether you need another indefinite period of
- 3 time. So it's looking like rather than the
- 4 window shutting in this case, as we were told
- 5 in June, it's re-opening for an indefinite
- 6 length of time. So it feels like the case is
- 7 going out of control rather than getting more
- 8 controlled.
- 9 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, this Rob
- 10 Schmidt again. If that's what we have conveyed
- 11 to you, that is not what we intended to do. The
- 12 substantive issues have been resolved and --
- 13 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Then let me ask, if
- they've been resolved by all the appropriate
- 15 decision-makers all the way up the chain, for
- 16 both parties?
- 17 MR. SCHMIDT: PPG -- this is Rob
- 18 Schmidt -- PPG has confirmed that the language
- 19 that was transmitted to us by U.S. EPA captures
- 20 all of the elements of the agreement. So we do
- 21 actually have now final signoff from my side on
- 22 the language to implement the changes to the

- 1 permit to represent the agreement.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: What about you,
- 3 Mr. Krueger?
- 4 MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, we have
- 5 concurrence in the language of the revised
- 6 permit sections up to the level immediately
- 7 below the division director who issues the
- 8 permit.
- 9 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Isn't the division
- 10 director the person that needs to concur?
- 11 MR. KRUEGER: The division director
- has indicated that she would like to wait until
- 13 the package actually comes to her after public
- 14 comment, before her final concurrence, but we
- 15 have indicated to her that we strongly recommend
- 16 those changes, and we anticipate there will be
- 17 no problems, subject to public comment.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: But I guess what I am
- 19 getting at is the permit mods that have been
- 20 made -- irrespective of what the public comment
- 21 process yields, since that's unpredictable and
- 22 no one knows what that will result in -- but as

- 1 far as the agreed modifications to this point,
- 2 has your division director agreed with all the
- 3 mods that you say that Mr. Schmidt said PPG has
- 4 been willing to do?
- 5 MR. KRUEGER: She has not -- everyone
- 6 in the signoff chain up to her, both in counsel
- 7 and on the program side, has agreed and has
- 8 recommended that she agreed to those
- 9 modifications.
- 10 JUDGE SHEEHAN: But she has not
- 11 agreed?
- MR. KRUEGER: She has not, but she
- 13 certainly has not disagreed. As I said, she's
- 14 indicated she preferred to wait, but if you want
- us to tell her that we need her concurrence, I
- 16 anticipate we can get that very quickly.
- 17 JUDGE SHEEHAN: I quess what I'm
- 18 getting at, Mr. Krueger, is to say in your July
- 19 17th filing -- July 16th, the parties have
- 20 successfully negotiated all terms necessary to
- 21 settle this matter, but it sounds from what
- you're saying that all the parties, at least in

- 1 the case of EPA, have not, because the signoff
- 2 official hasn't concurred, hasn't successfully
- 3 negotiated all terms.
- 4 You have and people above you, but
- 5 not the director. So that -- I'm confused,
- 6 because you said you represented the party's
- 7 stand, and the party in your case is EPA, but
- 8 EPA hasn't concurred, according to what you
- 9 just said.
- MR. KRUEGER: To make sure that I'm
- 11 clear, the division director has indicated she
- 12 did not want to formally concur until after
- 13 public comment proceeded; however, we have all
- 14 indications that she is onboard with the
- 15 modifications which have been recommended to
- 16 her.
- 17 She expressed no concern, she
- 18 expressed no objections. She simply
- 19 indicated that her decision or her
- 20 concurrence would not and could not be final
- 21 until after public comment.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: But why? I understand

- 1 that public comment will produce who knows what,
- and she needs to take a fresh look at it there,
- 3 but as far as what was agreed between the
- 4 parties before public comment, why can't she
- 5 agree to those changes now? Putting aside what
- 6 public comment may yield.
- 7 MR. KRUEGER: I can get her to verify
- 8 that that is her position. I think that's
- 9 implicitly her position, but as I indicated, her
- 10 bottom line was ultimately, she can't make a
- final decision until after public comment.
- 12 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Again, I'm not asking
- about a final decision at that point. I'm
- 14 asking about a final agreement by her now that
- 15 the mods are acceptable.
- 16 MR. KRUEGER: I can certainly get that
- 17 clarification.
- 18 JUDGE SHEEHAN: It doesn't seem like
- 19 your statement is accurate in the joint request
- 20 for extension in stating that the parties have
- 21 negotiated successfully.
- MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, if I -- this

- 1 is Rob Schmidt -- if I may clarify a statement.
- 2 I think certainly, PPG's perspective on this is
- 3 that the party that we were attempting to
- 4 negotiate with was the division -- and Tom and
- 5 the permit writer -- because we have always
- 6 understood that U.S. EPA's final decision on any
- 7 agreed-to terms and conditions that we have
- 8 reached would have to be contingent upon moving
- 9 the permit to the permit modification process,
- 10 which we have always understood to include the
- ability of U.S. EPA to make changes based upon
- 12 the requirements for public participation.
- 13 Certainly from our perspective,
- 14 from PPG's perspective, an agreement has been
- 15 reached with the necessary party, if you
- 16 will, the permit writer and legal counsel at
- 17 U.S. EPA, but we have always understood that
- 18 the final decision by -- well, originally I
- 19 was thinking the regional administrator, but
- 20 certainly the division head -- was going to
- 21 be something that was subject to the
- 22 modification process and public comment.

- 1 And so certainly from our
- 2 perspective, we've reached an agreement with
- 3 U.S. EPA. We understand that that agreement
- 4 has a contingency in it and are prepared to
- 5 move forward with the modification process,
- 6 however that ultimately is decided to be
- 7 done.
- 8 JUDGE SHEEHAN: It just sounds like
- 9 EPA, and if EPA is the decision-maker here, has
- 10 not agreed with you. Mr. Krueger, the permit
- 11 writer, has, but not the division director;
- 12 right?
- MR. KRUEGER: Well, again, Your Honor,
- 14 I -- while we didn't ask her to make this
- 15 statement, based on our discussions with the
- 16 division director, I think she regards it as
- 17 being a final agreement subject to public
- 18 comment.
- 19 Again, she -- I think she felt that
- 20 it was unnecessary for her to formally say
- 21 yes, this is final, and maybe that's a fairly
- 22 fine distinction, but I think that she felt

- 1 more comfortable not that going to that
- 2 point, feeling it wasn't necessary.
- 3 But again, if that is important for
- 4 the Board for us to clearly establish that,
- 5 we are happy to do that. And again, I
- 6 certainly don't believe that we
- 7 mis-represented the region's sense that the
- 8 parties have reached agreement here subject
- 9 to public comment.
- 10 JUDGE SHEEHAN: I'm looking for more
- 11 than a sense, especially when you're asking for
- 12 much more time now and you indicated that you
- 13 knew you were effectively done. Do you
- understand the Board's concern?
- 15 MR. KRUEGER: I certainly do --
- 16 JUDGE SHEEHAN: You make signals here,
- it's done, but then it's suddenly not done.
- 18 It's open again anew.
- MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, this is
- 20 Mr. Krueger again -- I don't believe that the
- 21 parties were mis-representing to the Board the
- 22 status of their progress in this, essentially

- 1 our agreement that -- our belief that we have
- 2 resolved this matter.
- 3 I think the one thing we may have
- 4 failed to emphasize to the Board in some of
- 5 our previous pleadings was that this
- 6 agreement would then still require the
- 7 parties to obtain a modification of the
- 8 permit.
- 9 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Let me ask
- 10 Mr. Krueger, when do you anticipate you would go
- 11 out with a new revised permit for public
- 12 comment?
- 13 MR. KRUEGER: Our belief is that all
- 14 we would need to go forward with would be a
- 15 modification of the permit rather than a
- 16 completely new reissued permit.
- 17 JUDGE SHEEHAN: When would that date
- 18 be?
- 19 MR. KRUEGER: We have one matter that
- 20 we still need to resolve, Your Honor, and at
- 21 this point, we need to have further consultation
- 22 with EPA headquarters on whether the permit can

- 1 be modified using the procedures set forth in
- 2 40 CFR Section 124.19(d). That's a relatively
- 3 new regulatory provision that the agency really
- 4 has not used much, if at all, that seems to
- 5 provide for a streamlined approach to permit
- 6 modification when that modification is resolving
- 7 a matter upon appeal with the agency. Because
- 8 it is fairly precedential, we do need to have
- 9 further consultations with headquarters.
- 10 Headquarters indicated that they
- weren't ready to complete that consultation
- 12 until the region advised them the matter
- 13 really has been settled. We have now done
- 14 that. We're hoping that that will be done
- 15 expeditiously.
- 16 If this provisions of 124.19 (d)
- are deemed not to be applicable there in
- 18 whole or in part, we would then proceed with
- 19 their standard modification provisions under
- 20 CFR Section 270.41. Both parties are
- 21 familiar with those.
- 22 As Mr. Schmidt indicated, we have

- 1 developed a document that shows the specific
- 2 language changes. Once we know which vehicle
- 3 is the appropriate vehicle to use, my belief
- 4 is that we can get that modification out
- 5 before the public within a matter of about a
- 6 week, establishing then appropriate public
- 7 communication provisions.
- 8 After we receive our public
- 9 comments, we believe we can move forward
- 10 expeditiously to respond to them and to
- 11 finalize the appropriate permit
- 12 modifications. So if you're asking me for a
- 13 specific projection, I would say that that I
- 14 do believe that we will have the
- 15 modifications resolved in about two months.
- 16 which was the basis for our asking for an
- 17 extension to September.
- 18 JUDGE SHEEHAN: When you say in your
- 19 filing on July 15th, the sentence after you say
- 20 you've successfully negotiated all terms, you
- 21 say you require further time to obtain final
- 22 approval. Is that what you just described, the

- 1 headquarters' approval on the vehicle for
- 2 streamlining, or something else?
- 3 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, this Rob
- 4 Schmidt. That was actually something else. We
- 5 reached final agreement the afternoon of
- 6 July 16th. And we hadn't at that point
- 7 exchanged the language for all six of the
- 8 modifications. And basically my client said we
- 9 have agreement but we've got to see it before we
- 10 can approve it.
- 11 And that was -- because we were
- 12 under the previous orders of the Board to
- file a response by July 16th, we had to
- 14 include that language because -- from my
- 15 client's perspective, while we had reached
- 16 that agreement in principle, we hadn't
- 17 exchanged the language and we had to see the
- 18 language.
- 19 MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, that that
- 20 final verification of language also had to
- 21 proceed within EPA Region 5, and that did happen
- 22 very shortly after we filed the status report.

- JUDGE SHEEHAN: Although it didn't
- 2 occur at the division director level?
- 3 MR. KRUEGER: Correct. Although the
- 4 division director has been briefed, the division
- 5 director has indicated, as I expressed, no
- 6 problems with it. She didn't feel that she
- 7 wanted to say that she agreed with the
- 8 modifications until she saw public comment.
- 9 JUDGE SHEEHAN: So you say you've
- 10 talked to headquarters already, Mr. Krueger,
- 11 about the streamlining vehicle?
- MR. KRUEGER: Yes.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: When did you speak to
- 14 them?
- MR. KRUEGER: We've actually -- we
- 16 have been talking with headquarters staff about
- 17 this question since the beginning of the
- 18 calendar year, but we indicated to them that at
- 19 this point, we now have a final resolution and
- 20 we really need to answer this question quickly.
- 21 That communication occurred. I think our filing
- 22 was last Thursday, and I was in touch with the

- 1 appropriate contacts at headquarters Friday
- 2 morning first thing.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: So why does it require
- 4 all the way through August into September to get
- 5 this out if you've already begun those
- 6 conversations with headquarters earlier this
- 7 year, at the beginning of this year?
- 8 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, Rob Schmidt.
- 9 Depending on how we go forward with the
- 10 modification -- and we'll have to figure out
- 11 whether this is a Class II or Class III product
- 12 modification to get these changes implemented,
- 13 there is a -- at least, I believe a 60-day
- 14 public comment period on the proposed
- 15 modification.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: That's not why I
- 17 asked. I asked why did it take so long to get
- 18 the proposed modified permit out for public
- 19 comment?
- MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, this is
- 21 Mr. Krueger. I believe that I had represented
- 22 earlier that we thought we could get it out very

- 1 quickly.
- 2 JUDGE SHEEHAN: But you said that was
- 3 September, which doesn't sound really quickly at
- 4 all, given the fact that you say began the
- 5 conversations with headquarters in January, or
- 6 early in the calendar year, as you represented.
- 7 MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, I must have
- 8 misspoken then. I thought that I said and I
- 9 certainly meant to say we would have the permit
- 10 modification completed by September.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: You mean completed
- 12 through public comment?
- MR. KRUEGER: Exactly.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: That may be my
- 15 mistake. I thought you meant just out, not with
- 16 public comment received. When do you think
- 17 you'll get it out then -- received with public
- 18 comment?
- MR. KRUEGER: My belief is that we
- 20 should be able to get the modifications out
- 21 within about a week after we get this decision
- 22 on what the appropriate vehicle would be. And I

- 1 am very hopeful that we will have our input from
- 2 headquarters on that question within about a
- 3 week or so.
- 4 JUDGE SHEEHAN: So you think what
- 5 then -- sounds like you're guessing two weeks or
- 6 so; is that right? To get it out?
- 7 MR. KRUEGER: That is my current
- 8 expectation. This is Mr. Krueger again. And
- 9 again, that is subject to making sure that we
- 10 have everything cleared with PPG as well. My
- 11 impression from our discussions with the PPG is
- 12 they'll work to fast-track this as well.
- MR. SCHMIDT: This is Rob Schmidt.
- 14 Absolutely.
- 15 JUDGE SHEEHAN: So given the fact that
- 16 that point, we'll be probably be in the 15th or
- 17 maybe 16th -- 16th month, and the Board is
- 18 anxious just to get this thing resolved either
- 19 by briefing it in your argument and having a
- 20 decision, or by having the parties take it
- 21 away -- would you have any objection to the
- 22 Board ordering that the region file its response

- 1 to the petition in three weeks if the permit mod
- 2 is not out for public comment before that time?
- 3 MR. KRUEGER: Your Honor, this is
- 4 Mr. Krueger. This may be a good opportunity to
- 5 I think clarify some apparent confusion. The
- 6 EPA Region 5 has filed its response to the
- 7 petition for review. We filed that within the
- 8 deadline that the Board originally established.
- 9 So the matter is effectively fully
- 10 briefed. And it was after EPA filed its
- 11 response that the parties initiated their
- 12 request for a stay, because we believe that
- 13 the matter was capable of resolution by
- 14 agreement rather than requiring the Board to
- 15 review the merits. So the matter is fully
- 16 briefed and ready to proceed, if that becomes
- 17 necessary.
- JUDGE SHEEHAN: Okay.
- MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, this Rob
- 20 Schmidt. I do want to concur with Mr. Krueger
- on that point that they did file their response
- 22 within the timeline provided. I think that

- 1 proceeding at this point with oral argument or
- any sort of hearings on this matter would not
- 3 really be necessary because all of the
- 4 substantive issues have been resolved. I mean,
- 5 we are at a point now where we are effectively
- 6 dealing only with procedural matters to
- 7 implement the agreement between the parties.
- 8 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Right, but you
- 9 understand our concern. The procedural matters
- 10 are seeming to eat up more months than the
- 11 substantive at this point. And again, I'm going
- 12 back to your representation in June that you'd
- 13 have complete and final resolution by July, and
- 14 then in July saying you had all terms necessary
- 15 settled.
- 16 But then you had three other issues
- 17 you put out, and you wanted until September
- 18 before you get back to us with another
- 19 proposal for how much more time it might
- 20 take. It doesn't sound like it's just
- 21 winding down. Can you understand that
- 22 perspective, given the way you have

- 1 articulated things in your recent filings?
- 2 MR. SCHMIDT: This is Rob Schmidt. I
- 3 guess my response to that would be that would
- 4 probably be the result of inartful drafting
- 5 between Mr. Krueger and myself as to not
- 6 alerting the Board clearly enough that there was
- 7 going to be a secondary set of considerations
- 8 once the parties had resolved the substantive
- 9 issues.
- MR. KRUEGER: And this is Mr. Krueger.
- I would agree with that. And while I think we
- 12 have been clearancing, we were working towards
- an agreement to modify the permit. Perhaps we
- 14 could have been clearer that once that agreement
- 15 was reached, that we would still have to go
- 16 through the necessary procedural steps, as
- 17 Mr. Schmidt indicated.
- 18 JUDGE SHEEHAN: And this too in the
- 19 face of the statement in the July order that no
- 20 further extensions will be granted, and that was
- 21 actually said even before that, with reference
- 22 to the June 13 filings.

- 1 So it -- the concern here is that
- 2 we thought that this is moving to closure.
- 3 This is an old, old case as it is, and now we
- 4 are being told there is a lot more process
- 5 and procedure to come, which could gobble up
- 6 many more months.
- But I think that you got your word,
- 8 Mr. Krueger, that even though -- I know it's
- 9 not -- you can't be absolutely clear, but you
- 10 expect -- well, both of you expect, within
- 11 two weeks, you'll get out the modified permit
- 12 for public comment. You're both comfortable
- 13 with that statement?
- MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, this is
- 15 Mr. Schmidt --
- 16 JUDGE SHEEHAN: Fact
- 17 representations --
- 18 MR. SCHMIDT: As far as Mr. Krueger's
- 19 representations go, I certainly think that we
- 20 could marshal resources on our end to be able to
- 21 do that, depending upon what the ultimate
- decision is as to the process.

- 1 MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Judge, and this is
- 2 Mr. Krueger. I also don't want you to take our
- 3 hesitation as concern that we wouldn't meet
- 4 those deadlines. I think as Mr. Schmidt was
- 5 indicating, the decision on which vehicle is
- 6 going to be used will determine which entity has
- 7 to take the laboring oar in terms of getting the
- 8 modifications out.
- 9 So we can only -- I think we can
- 10 only really fairly speak for our own clients,
- 11 but I will indicate that -- as Mr. Schmidt
- 12 did, I think my client is ready to move
- 13 forward within that time frame.
- 14 JUDGE SHEEHAN: I think Ms. Berrios
- 15 has a question.
- MS. BERRIOS: I had a question for
- 17 Mr. Krueger. You mentioned 124.19(b) as the
- 18 provision given with modification. Is that a
- 19 new provision, and how new is it?
- I have a copy here of the CFR, but
- 21 it's a 2006 version, and it doesn't -- the
- 22 provision that relates to 124.19 (b) doesn't

- deal with mechanism, so I was wondering if
- 2 this was a new provision, recent one?
- 3 Mr. Krueger?
- 4 MR. KRUEGER: Yes, I don't have it
- 5 here in front of me, and I apologize for that.
- 6 My belief is that that provision was added at
- 7 roughly the time that the Agency revised its
- 8 procedural rules. That still seems new to me,
- 9 although I realize that's probably been in place
- 10 now for about four or five years.
- 11 But it was done in conjunction with
- 12 that. And as I indicated, from all the
- 13 research that I've done and all the people
- 14 I've talked to, it's not anything that the
- 15 Agency has really had to invoke very much at
- 16 this point.
- 17 MR. SCHMIDT: Your Honor, Rob Schmidt.
- 18 If I may offer an observation. I have a second
- 19 RCRA permit appeal in front of the Board pending
- 20 right now on behalf of the Dow Chemical Company.
- 21 And in that -- that case has also resolved
- 22 itself on a substantive basis, but the question

- 1 has been posed in that case as well as to what
- 2 procedures need to be used to modify the
- 3 underlying RCRA permit.
- 4 And the response in that matter was
- 5 the same as Mr. Krueger's response, in that
- 6 this procedural rule appears to be something
- 7 that has not been used a great deal. And I
- 8 think that Mr. Krueger's observation about
- 9 headquarters needing to be involved is
- 10 something that I've experienced in another
- 11 context.
- 12 JUDGE SHEEHAN: I think unless the
- parties have anything more to add, we can wrap
- 14 this up. Again, I do want to stress, I'm going
- 15 to speak about this with the other judges, who I
- 16 think shared the frustration that this has gone
- on quite a while and gone on -- most recently in
- 18 the face of representation that it was about to
- 19 conclude -- and suddenly it doesn't seem like
- 20 it's about to conclude at all.
- I would, Mr. Krueger, urge you
- 22 to get with your division director right away

- 1 and indicate to us whether or not there's any
- 2 disagreement on her part with approval, at
- 3 least as of the mods between the parties
- 4 whatever -- putting aside whatever the public
- 5 comment might be.
- 6 And also, Mr. Krueger, urge you to
- 7 get with OGC or whomever you're speaking to
- 8 at headquarters to wrap up the vehicle
- 9 issue -- streamlining issue so that this
- 10 begin can get out quickly.
- MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Judge. I certainly
- 12 intend to do that. And you know, I understand
- and share the Board's concern that this has
- dragged on for some time now. You know, I will
- 15 note that the Board was very gracious in
- 16 granting the last extension. On seeing there
- 17 will be no further extensions unless the parties
- 18 have successfully negotiated all terms to settle
- 19 this matter, I genuinely do believe we have
- 20 reached that point. If we hadn't, we wouldn't
- 21 have made the further request for extension of
- 22 stay.

| 1 | I do firmly believe that the |
|----|---|
| 2 | Board's willingness to grant us time to see |
| 3 | if we could reach an agreed resolution has |
| 4 | produced a substantive resolution at this |
| 5 | point that is advantageous to all the parties |
| 6 | and to the Agency. |
| 7 | We are grateful for the extensions |
| 8 | the Board has granted us, and I do firmly |
| 9 | believe that by September, if we are |
| 10 | completely done, we're going to be well along |
| 11 | in the process, and have something tangible |
| 12 | to show the Board and have a very concrete |
| 13 | idea of the fact that this is going to be |
| 14 | resolved. |
| 15 | JUDGE SHEEHAN: Thank you both. |
| 16 | MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Your Honor. |
| 17 | MR. KRUEGER: Thank you. |
| 18 | (Whereupon, at approximately |
| 19 | 11:33 a.m., the TELECONFERENCE |
| 20 | was adjourned.) |
| 21 | * * * * |
| 22 | |

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MARK MAHOMEY